



THE CONSTITUTION STATE RIGHTS
RICHMOND VIRG
THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1862.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our Office and Correspondents.

Whatever difference may exist among the states of the South, as to the policy proper for the development or defense of a State, there is no doubt of the entire harmony of the people, in their industrial interests, most earnest and resolute to defend their liberties.

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Our Canal.

We must call the attention of the Quartermaster and Commissary General to the importance of organizing transportation upon the James River Canal. That work will be found adequate to conduct the communication with the upper country, if timely steps shall be taken to put all the bateaux and canal boats in order. It is plain that the enemy may make a cavalry dash upon the Railroads and intercept their use, but if the Canal be put and kept in good working order, the supplies of the upper country can be brought down with sufficient rapidity to maintain our army. We hope this important measure will be attended to immediately. Indeed, we trust it has already received the attention of the Confederate and Canal authorities. Let not an indignant public be awakened suddenly to the important fact of an insufficient communication with the interior. Let not the Confederate authorities give occasion to comments which impair public confidence in the cause; and let the President of the Canal take measures that Virginia shall receive an adequate reward in the safety of her Capital, for the liberal wisdom with which she has constructed that important work.

We infer from reported movements of the enemy that it is his purpose to move on our railroads and so cut off our communication with the interior. We have no fear of the "circumlocution" of which we hear, for if the Yankees advance far enough to command our railroads permanently, and so prevent their repair, they will be separated from their own base of supplies and expose themselves to attack movements.

In the meantime, as it will not do to have our railroads cut off suddenly, our shipment and storage should be done on the line of the canal, and we shall be protected from starvation.

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INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

RUMORED INTERVENTION IN AMERICAN AFFAIRS—TRUTH OVERTAKING FALSEHOOD.

By the receipt of Northern papers, we are in possession of European advices by two recent arrivals. The intelligence is highly interesting, but should not be allowed to excite hopes which may not be realized.

Mr. Gladstone, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recently delivered a speech at Stockton upon Tees, which is interpreted as being more favorable to the Confederate cause than anything which has emanated from that Minister.

It is regarded by the English journals as an official exposition of the views of the English Cabinet on American affairs, and is not only favorably commented upon by the leading papers but has been made the subject of comment by the Paris Constitutional which praises Mr. Gladstone and the Morning Post. The official or semi-official French journals, the Constitutional, the Paris and Pays, have all of the same enthusiastically received the article in the London Morning Post—Lord Palmerston's organ—made a demonstration in favor of the South. We learn, moreover, that in well informed circles it is generally believed that the English and French Cabinets are actively moving in the matter of the blockade of the Southern ports which has had even a more serious effect upon the industrial population of Lyons than on that of Manchester.

Mr. Gladstone has also been "ventilating" his views on the American question, at Manchester, in respect to which it is said that the London Times has adopted his remarks as its own.

It admits that the circumstances attending the secession of the Southern States were a sufficient cause for the rashness of rushing into a war without considering the consequences. It was always ready to make allowances for the Northerners if they would only have made some allowance for the Southerners as a neutral power. It claims that England has observed a most determined and self-possessed course, and concludes by asserting that the real question rests entirely in whether the heart of the South is set on separation.

THE PARIS PRESS—A DEMONSTRATION IN BEHALF OF THE SOUTH.

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FROM LINCOLN.

PARTIAL REMOVAL OF THE BLOCKADE—EMANCIPATION ORDER.

Northern journals to the 16th instant, have been received. They bring an official copy of the Proclamation of Old Abe, opening three Southern ports, viz:

Whereas, by my proclamation of the nineteenth of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, it was made known to the people of the United States, that I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, pursuant to authority in me vested by the fifth section of the act of Congress, approved the 13th of July last, entitled "An act to provide for the collection of duties on imports and for other purposes," do hereby declare that the blockade of the said ports of Beaufort, Port Royal, and New Orleans, shall so far cease and determine, from and after the first day of June next, that commerce between those ports, except as to persons and things, and information and intelligence of war, may and that same be carried on subject to the laws of the United States, and to the limitations and in pursuance of the regulations which are prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury in his order of this date, which is appended to this proclamation.

Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-sixth.

By the President:
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.

The regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, appended to the proclamation, have not been received.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

Gen. Hunter has issued the following "General Order," dated "Headquarters, Department of the South, Hilton Head, S. C., May 9th, 1862."

The three States of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, comprising the Military Department of the South, having deliberately declared themselves no longer under the protection of the United States of America, and having taken up arms against said United States, and having declared their intention to declare martial law, and to maintain the same, I, General Hunter, do hereby declare that the said States of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, heretofore held as slaves, are therefore declared free forever.

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FROM NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK.

The Engineer, of yesterday, published the following extract from a letter received by the underground railroad, from Norfolk:

"We are lucky in having all army officers in command. Col. Spenser commands the Military Department, and I believe is a slaveholder, and married a lady from near Danville, Va.; Major Talmage is Quartermaster, and Major Nixon Provost Marshal. If you ask a favor, they ask you to take the oath. Gen. Wool pledged his word, that no one should be required to take the oath. We are strong and united in our faith. Some, however, are contemptible. Sam Glen, the Dutch Comedian, is here, endeavoring to reach the Norfolk Theatre."

We also copy the following from the Engineer:

The wine and liquor establishment of Duncan Robinson was broken open Sunday night, by the Yankee soldiers, and a quantity of wine, liquors and cigars stolen. The warehouses of Messrs. Biggs and Hardy & Broder, have been searched by the Yankee soldiers, and the houses of a number of private residents have been taken for officers' quarters. The old Academy and all the school houses are used as hospitals. Only two Federal flags have been displayed by the residents, and they were citizens of no respectability or standing.

King Abraham visited Norfolk Monday, the 12th inst. He was received at a crowded hotel, and a drunken oysterman, named Gumbel. Upon arriving at the hotel, the announcement was made that "President Lincoln would receive all visitors who desired to see him." The first man introduced was a man of color, a colored individual, named Hill, a steamfitter. Several other friends of Hill, who had been "smiling," were also introduced, when Abraham's first reception in Norfolk ended.

The Military Governor, Venable, has turned the city over to the Mayor and Municipal Corp., and the night police will resume the functions of their office. Major Lamb will continue his course.

The incoming and outgoing of numerous soldiers attracts a good deal of the attention of the citizens.

Writing from a correspondent at the Petersburg Express, from Richmond, May 16th, we copy the following:

Everything is quiet about Norfolk and Portsmouth. Gen. Wool has assured the people that private persons and property should be respected. The citizens are permitted to attend to their business as usual, but no person is allowed to pass from one city to the other without a pass from the Mayor or Provost Marshal.

I was in Suffolk when that place was occupied by the Federal troops. Suffolk was evacuated last Monday afternoon, and early on Tuesday morning about 200 Federal cavalry entered the town, under command of Lieut. Col. Dodge, of New York. They rode into town at first, as they were aware of it, and many supposed, at that it was a company of our own cavalry. Sleeping about the center of the town, the commander immediately placed a guard at the Suffolk Savings Bank, with orders to let no one pass or out. The citizens took possession of the town, and the order was issued, promising the proprietor to pay him or his trouble, and on his declining to serve them for pay, they then ordered it prepared any way. One lady, who has a son in command of a company in the Confederate army, asked her son-in-law to pay her, and he refused to do so, and she was forced to leave the town.

During the day a committee of the citizens, composed of Major Eddick, Rev. W. B. Welles, James B. Norton, Charles Walters and Wm. H. Ellis, waited on Col. Dodge to know his intentions and purpose, and he assured them that the persons and property of all private persons should be respected, and that no negro should be permitted to visit the town without permission from his owner, and immediately directed the patrol to disperse the negroes on the streets.

In the afternoon, several of the soldiers were seen in conversation with the negroes, and a group of many of them if they did not wish to be free. One showed a boy with whom they conversed, informing the party questioning him, that Col. Wright, with his 1st Georgia Regiment, was only two miles from the town, and that they were near Bethlehem Chapel. The soldiers then dispersed, and in less than half an hour, they were all seen galloping away from town, forgetting to pay for the bacon they purchased of one of the merchants, or to settle any other contract with them. I could not tell for some time that had so good a result. They did not stop until they reached the city of Norfolk, where they informed a gentleman that they met with a very cold reception in Suffolk. A Mr. Woodward, of Suffolk, told the party partly what he thought of them, and a sharp quarrel ensued, in which much profane language was used on both sides.

Many negroes who ran off from their owners last week have returned, evidently disappointed in their expectations, and since the coming of the Yankees to Suffolk none have left home.

THE CAPTURE AND KILLING OF YANKEES AT CITY POINT.—The Petersburg Express of yesterday, gives the following account of the affair, briefly chronicled under our telegraphic head, in yesterday's paper:

Quite a brilliant little affair occurred at City Point yesterday afternoon, by which nine Yankee officers and men were taken prisoners, and seven or eight killed. About 3 o'clock a small boat from one of the war vessels lying in the James river approached the wharf at City Point, from which nine men were seen to land and proceed up the town, while several others remained behind in the boat. Stationed near at hand, and completely hidden from view, was a detachment of fifteen men, belonging to Company I, Captain Willis, of the Fourth Georgia Regiment. The commanding officer of this detachment immediately divided his men into two parties, one of which he directed to the boat, and the other in the direction of the Yankees who had approached the town. As soon as our men were seen double quicking towards them, the Yankees on land endeavored to make their escape, but were fortunately cut off and made to surrender. The command to surrender was repeated three times in the boat, and several times repeated without success. It being very evident to our men that they were endeavoring to get away without positively refusing to surrender, they raised their rifles and fired. One man was seen to fall overboard, and all the balance, except one, to fall in the boat, leaving only one who was seen to escape. The survivor was seen to paddle off with one hand, and the inference is that the other was too much injured to be used. Our men then quickly returned to a train of cars stationed a little way off, sent their prisoners aboard and brought them to town, where they were immediately carried to Gen. Huger's headquarters.

Their arrival here created quite a stir on the streets, and men, women and boys followed them to the Custom House. We present below the names and positions of the officers captured:

Charles B. Baker, Chief Engineer.
Lieut. J. W. D. Ford, Signal Corps.
Lieut. S. Stockwell, Asst. Paymaster.
George D. Slocom, Asst. Surgeon, and five men of the steam sloop-of-war Massachusetts.

We understand the immediate cause of the Huger's visit to City Point was in obedience to the request of a lady there, that he should pay her medical bills. What truth there is in this we do not know, but from what we hear are inclined to credit it.

The prisoners were all comfortably cared for last night, by order of Gen. Huger.